The case for supporting human rights

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“The Guiding Principles set the baseline responsibility of all enterprises as *respect* for human rights wherever they operate. **Beyond that, enterprises may voluntarily undertake additional human rights commitments** – such as the *promotion* of certain human rights –

- for philanthropic reasons,
- to protect and enhance their reputation,
or
- to develop new business opportunities.”

“...to achieve or maintain support for its operations from surrounding communities (‘a so-called social license to operate’)”
Since its inception, the UN Global Compact has asked for two central commitments by business leaders and organizations:

- To implement the ten principles of the UN Global Compact; and
- To undertake actions in support of broader UN goals and issues.
Blueprint for Corporate Sustainability Leadership

Implementing the Ten Principles into Strategies and Operations
1. Full Coverage and Integration Across Principles
2. Robust Management Policies and Procedures
3. Mainstreaming into Corporate Functions and Business Units
4. Value Chain Implementation

Taking Action in Support of Broader UN Goals and Issues
1. Core Business Contributions to UN Goals and Issues
2. Strategic Social Investments and Philanthropy
3. Advocacy and Public Policy Engagement
4. Partnerships and Collective Action

Engaging with the UN Global Compact
1. Local Networks and Subsidiary Engagement
2. Global and Local Working Groups
3. Issue-Based and Sector Initiatives
4. Promotion and Support of the UN Global Compact
• Corporate sustainability is defined as a company’s delivery of long-term value in financial, social, environmental and ethical terms.

• With the right incentives, enabling environments and means of implementation, the private sector can make significant contributions to the sustainable development agenda in Rio and beyond.
The UN Global Compact asks businesses to embrace, support and enact within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption.

**Human Rights**

Principle 1  Businesses should **support and respect** the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights;

Principle 2  and make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
What’s in it for the UN and for business

Business

Increasing, long-term sustainable profitability

United Nations

Peace & Poverty Reduction

- Economic growth
- Environment
- Global Health
- Good Governance & Security
- Food Security
- Sustainable Development
- Access to Energy
- Job Creation

Deepening Interdependencies
What is the UN Global Compact

- Ten universal principles on HR, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption
- Advocacy based initiative with a change model
- Emphasises learning, dialogue, collective action
- Complement to and not a substitute for regulation
- Companies make explicit statement of support for and commitment to the Principles
- Has a reporting framework for implementation
- Its mandate comes from the UN General Assembly: to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community
- Multi-stakeholder network (over 8000 business participants and other stakeholders engaged in more than 135 countries)
- Emphasis on the business case
Types of ways that business can support human rights

Business can “support” or promote human rights in at least four ways:

– through their core business activities
– strategic social investment and philanthropy
– advocacy and public policy engagement
– partnerships and collective action.
Re-conceptualizing Business Contributions: How Business and Philanthropy blends

RB: Responsible Business
IB: Inclusive Business
SV: Shared Value
SB: Social Business
SI: Strategic Investment
How does the UNGC advance human rights?

- **Advocating** that businesses have robust management systems in place to identify and manage human rights risks and opportunities.
- Helping businesses to know better how to **address management systems failures and knowledge gaps**.
- Helping to **promote the responsibility to respect**, and the associated Guiding Principles among business.
- Working with other UN entities, to encourage the private sector to see the value of **going beyond the minimum**, individually and collectively, to engage in activities that support and promote human rights.
Human Rights and Business Dilemmas Forum

Dilemmas and case studies

Access to water
Child labour
Community relocation
Conflict minerals (draft for consultation)
Corruption
Ethnic minorities

Human Rights and Business Dilemmas Forum

The UN Global Compact and Maplecroft invite you to participate in a Forum designed to stimulate discussion about the dilemmas responsible multi-national companies may face in their efforts to respect and support human rights when operating in emerging economies.

Participate in the Forum
Complementarity with the UN Protect-Respect-Remedy Framework / Guiding Principles

- **Promote business awareness of and encourage implementation** of corporate responsibility to respect
- Raise the awareness of the importance of having **robust policies, procedures and practices in place** (due diligence) on human rights and tools
- **Help to bring geographic, issue and sectoral specificity to the corporate responsibility to respect**
- Delve deeper on **how to undertake** the recommended due diligence steps
- Promote **coherence** among business and human rights tool providers
- Provide a framework for and motivate companies to **report progress** on their human rights implementation